

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06279 160923Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----110619 160926Z /13  
O 160841Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3127

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6279

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, PBOR, PGOV, IS, US  
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN

REF: STATE 123877

1. ASSUME FROM REFTEL THAT A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER FOR BEGIN IS IN THE WORKS. ONE IS SURELY BADLY NEEDED AT THIS JUNCTURE, AND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE I SHOULD HAVE IT TO DELIVER TUESDAY, MAY 16, ALTHOUGH IF AN EXTRA DAY IS NEEDED TO MAKE SURE IT STRIKES THE RIGHT NOTE THE DELAY WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

2. AM SURE I DO NOT HAVE TO STATE OBVIOUS: THAT SENATE VOTE ON AIRCRAFT PACKAGE WILL CREATE HERE DURING COMING DAYS SOMETHING APPROXIMATING A "FIRE STORM" OF RECRIMINATIONS AGAINST U.S., ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT BY OPPOSITION FOR MISHANDLING ISRAELI TACTICS, AND HEIGHTENED SENSE OF PARANOIA IN PRIME MINISTER'S INNER CIRCLE ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION. NET EFFECT WILL CERTAINLY FURTHER REDUCE CHANCES OF GETTING RATIONAL RESPONSE AT SUNDAY'S CABINET MEETING TO OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

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3. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN MANY WEEKS SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS COMMUNICATED WITH BEGIN DIRECTLY AND PERSONALLY, WITH EXCEPTION OF BRIEF ENCOUNTERS IN WASHINGTON. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT A MESSAGE AT THIS MOMENT CARRY TONE OF WARM EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI SECURITY WHICH WAS SO WELL EXPRESSED IN

RECENT MESSAGE PRESIDENT TAPED FOR ISRAELI TELEVISION  
IN CONNECTION WITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.  
WOULD ALSO URGE THAT SOME PERSONAL WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT  
FOR BEGIN HIMSELF BE INCLUDED AT THIS POINT, FOR HE IS  
THE ONE BEING ASKED TO MAKE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT  
DECISIONS AT A MOMENT IN WHICH ANGER AND RESENTMENT IN  
HIS CABINET AND AMONG HIS CLOSEST SUPPORTERS FOR U.S.  
WILL BE AT ITS HEIGHT. AM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE  
OF PERSONAL LINK WITH CARTER IN BEGIN'S THINKING, SO I  
DO NOT NEED TO BELABOR THIS POINT.

4. SENSE OF PARA TWO OF REFTEL PRESUMABLY WILL FORM  
BODY OF MESSAGE, BUT IT MUST BE AUGMENTED BY ADDITIONAL  
REASSURANCES TO DEAL WITH EMOTIONAL CLIMATE HERE OVER  
NEXT FEW DAYS. WE ARE AT A VERY DIFFICULT POINT IN PEACE  
PROCESS; ISRAELIS ARE INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL THAT SADAT  
MEANS BUSINESS AT ALL AND ARE BEGINNING TO REVERT TO  
THIER CLASSIC "PORCUPINE POSITION." IN THIS DELICATE  
MOMENT, TEXTURE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CARTER AND  
BEGIN IS VITAL ELEMENT.

5. MEANWHILE POINTS CONTAINED PARA TWO REFTEL THAT YOU  
WISH ME TO CONVEY TO BEGIN ARE SUCH THIN GRUEL THAT I  
THINK IN CIRCUMSTANCES THEY MAY FURTHER IRRITATE RATHER  
THAN ASSUAGE THE ISTUATION. THUS I HAVE DECIDED TO  
DELAY DELIVERY UNTIL I HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE IN  
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HAND. THIS IS YET ANOTHER REASON WHY I HOPE A LETTER  
FROM THE PRESIDENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING NO LATER THAN  
TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE TO THE WHITE  
HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI.  
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, MILITARY SALES, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978TELAV06279  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MESSAGE FOR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN  
**TAGS:** PPDC, MASS, PARM, PBOR, PGOV, IS, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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